DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 317 210 IR 053 116

AUTHOR	Dunn, Christina, Ed.
TITLE	A Head Start at the Library. "Check This Out" Series.
INSTITUTION	Office of Libraries and Learning Technologies (ED), Washington, DC.
REPORT NO	LP-89-736
PUB DATE	Sep 89
NOTE	4p.
AVAILABLE FROM	Office of Library Programs, 555 New Jersey Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20208-5571.
PUB TYPE	Reports - Descriptive (141)
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	Childrens Libraries; Cooperative Programs; *Economically Disadvantaged; Hispanic Americans; Library Extension; Library Planning; *Library Services; Literature Appreciation; Outreach Programs; *Preschool Children; *Public Libraries; Public Relations; *Special Programs; User Needs (Information)
IDENTIFIERS	*Colorado; Library Cards; Library Services and Construction Act; *Project Head Start

ABSTRACT

A special program was developed using $8,800 in local funds and $18,957 in Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) funds for Head Start families in the Denver community. Of the 1,850 preschool-aged children from 100 Head Start classes who participated, 90% were from families with income levels below $9,000, 78% were from single-parent families, 54% were Hispanic; and 12% qualified as special needs children. Specific objectives of the program were to: (1) provide an opportunity for each Head Start child to obtain a library card; (2) arrange a visit for each class to the Denver Children's Library or to a neighborhood library; (3) purchase appropriate library materials for use with Head Start children; (4) train 200 Head Start teachers and aides and 50 library personnel in providing programs for preschool children; (5) convey information and special programming for Head Start families; and (6) organize at least 3 visits to each of the Head Start sites by the Magic Bus bookmobile. Additional activities feature "I Have a Library Card" parties, storytelling programs, and visits by the Big Green Bookworm. The project is evaluated by assessing circulation statistics, children's comments before and after project activities, and interviews with parents conducted by Head Start aides and social workers. (SD)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

ED317210

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.

☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.

• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

A HEAD START AT THE LIBRARY

Office of Educational Research and Improvement

September 1989

IR053116

✓ this out

The Office of Library Programs funds projects through the Library Services and Construction Act and Title II of the Higher Education Act. The ✓ this out series summarizes funded projects that have extended or improved library services. Readers are encouraged to contact the manager of the featured project for more information.

A Head Start at the Library

Audience: Economically disadvantaged Denver preschoolers participating in one of the Child Opportunity Program's 100 Head Start classes. Of the 1,850 children participating, 90 percent are from families with income levels under $9,000; 78 percent come from single-parent families; 54 percent are Hispanic; the majority suffer from language development problems; and 12 percent qualify as special needs (handicapped) students. Most of the children do not own books and reading has not been part of their early development.

Need: Promote an awareness of and appreciation for books and reading and the public library and its services to Head Start families, especially those from the Hispanic community.

Objectives:

- To provide an opportunity for each Head Start child to obtain a Denver Public Library card.
- To arrange a visit for each class to the Children's Library at the Central Denver Public Library or to a neighborhood library.
- To purchase appropriate library materials for use with Head Start children.
- To train 200 Head Start teachers and aides and 50 public library personnel in providing programs, especially read-aloud activities, for preschool children.
- To convey information and produce special programming for Head Start families throughout the school year.
- To organize at least three visits to each of the Head Start sites by the library's special children's bookmobile, the Magic Bus.

Budget: Total for fiscal year 1988 (initial year of funding): $18,957 from the Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) Title I; and $8,800 from local library funds.

Background: Jim Trelease in *The Read Aloud Handbook* emphasizes that having and using a free public library card is a primary factor in reading success. He believes the sooner children become accustomed to seeing and using books, the sooner they develop the concept that books are an important part of daily life. Research shows that economically disadvantaged children have significantly increased in vocabulary growth and knowledge of word meanings as a result of having books read aloud and made available to them on a regular basis. Coordinators of the Child Opportunity Program confirm the need to provide opportunities for Head Start children to see, handle, and read books, and to introduce parents to the possibilities of sharing books with their children.

The project also complements the goals of the Denver Public Library's Hispanic Steering Committee, established in 1987 to make long-range recommendations to the Library Commission for programming, collection development, and public relations designed to attract Hispanic children and young adults to the library.

Activities: This is a multifaceted program involving coordination and cooperation between the Children's Library and the Child Opportunity Program. Each Head Start class visits either the Central Children's Library or a neighborhood library where children receive library cards,

IR053116

special bookbags and bookmarks, participate in a storytime, and check out books. Volunteers of the Denver Public Library then visit each classroom to host an "I Have a Library Card" party. In addition, books are purchased and placed in each classroom, "exemplary" picture books are provided to the Child Opportunity Center's Resource Center, and Spanish language picture books are distributed among 10 Denver Public Library sites. To further introduce and reinforce books and reading, professional storytellers provide programs for the children and their families. Also, the Denver Public Library's reading mascot, the Big Green Bookworm, and the Magic Bus visit each classroom. Training is another important element of the effort to ensure the project's success. Head Start teachers, aides, and public library staff are instructed in providing literature-based programs for preschool children.

Evaluation: Evaluation of the project is determined by the extent to which objectives are met and project activities completed. Library staff keep records about each Head Start child and family issued a library card during the life of the project. They also compile circulation statistics for books that the Magic Bus takes to Head Start centers. Head Start staff record the number of visits they make to neighborhood libraries and the Central Library, indicating children's comments before and after project visits and activities related to these visits, including bilingual presentations. They also provide evaluations of the thematic units and Magic Bus visits. Head Start community aides and social workers interview parents to ascertain attitudes about the public library before and after project activities.

Adoption: An overview of the project and bibliographies prepared for parents and teachers are available if you send a stamped, self-addressed, #10 envelope to the contact person whose name and address appear below. A 5-minute videotape of the project prepared by a local cable television station is also available. To receive the 1/2-inch videotape, send $5 in check or money order, payable to the Denver Public Library, address below. (The fee covers tape duplicating and mailing costs.) For more detailed information, the project director is available to answer your questions, by phone.

Contact:

Pam Sandlian
Children's Library
Denver Public Library
1357 Broadway
Denver, CO 80203–2165
(303) 571–2042

For more information about ✓this out, contact the series editor:

Christina Dunn
Office of Library Programs
555 New Jersey Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20208–5571
(202) 357–6293

September 1989

LP 89–736